

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for determining a first and a second reference picture of a current block, comprising the steps of:

(A) finding a co-located picture and block;

(B) determining a reference index for said current block;

(C) mapping the reference index to a lowest valued reference index in a current reference list; and

(D) using said reference index to determine said second reference picture, wherein said first and said second reference pictures are used for inter-prediction of said current block.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said block comprises an H.264 direct-mode macroblock or macroblock partition.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (C) further comprises:

storing a unique identifier for each reference picture, wherein said unique identifier is associated from (i) when said unique identifier was used as an inter-reference in the co-located

picture to (ii) when said unique identifier is made available as a potential List0 inter-reference for the current picture.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing a unique identifier of a direct-mode reference picture.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 4, wherein said direct-mode operates on (i) a macroblock when in a first configuration and (ii) a macroblock partition when in a second configuration.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

searching the current reference list for the lowest valued reference index ~~identifier~~ identified by said unique  
5 identifier and returning the value of said lowest valued reference index.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprising the step of:

implementing an interpolative direct mode prediction and  
a flexible choice for the picture referenced by a finite index  
5 reference.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein  
said method is implemented in a video encoder.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein  
said method is implemented in a video decoder.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for determining a  
first and a second reference picture of a current block, comprising  
the steps of:

means for finding a co-located picture and block;

5 means for determining a reference index for said current  
block;

means for mapping the reference index to a lowest valued  
reference index in a current reference list; and

10 means for using said reference index to determine said  
second reference picture, wherein said first and said second  
reference pictures are used for inter-prediction of said current  
block.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said block comprises an H.264 direct-mode macroblock or macroblock partition.

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said means for mapping comprises:

means for storing a unique identifier for each reference picture, wherein said unique identifier is associated from (i) when  
5 said unique identifier was used as an inter-reference in the co-located picture to (ii) when said unique identifier is made available as a potential List0 inter-reference for the current picture.

13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

means for storing a unique identifier of a direct-mode reference picture.

14. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said direct-mode operates on (i) a macroblock when in a first configuration and (ii) a macroblock partition when in a second configuration.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for searching the current reference list for the lowest valued reference index ~~identifier~~ identified by said unique identifier and returning the value of said lowest valued reference index.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus further comprising:

means for implementing an interpolative direct mode prediction and a flexible choice for the picture referenced by a finite index reference.

17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus is implemented in a video encoder.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus is implemented in a video decoder.